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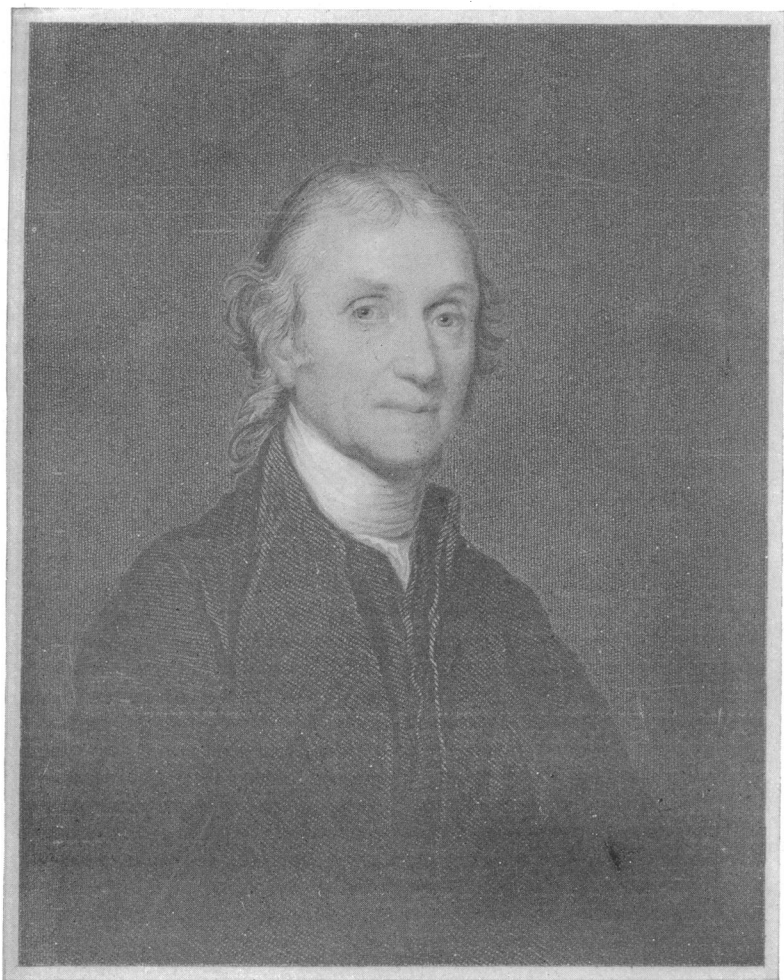
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JOSEPH PRIESTLEY.

outskirts of the town from trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad passing Northumberland. It is a two-story structure, with capacious attic space. It is about  $45 \times 50$  feet, with a projection at each end about 25 feet square. One of these was the kitchen and the other the workshop, or laboratory, in which Priestley pursued his scientific study and experiments.

**THE WORK IN INDUSTRIAL  
CHEMISTRY OF THE AMERICAN  
CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

A GROUP of chemists met at Northumberland in 1874 to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the discovery of oxygen by Priestley and from this meeting the American Chemical Society had its origin. The society, which now has some 14,000 members and publishes three

important journals, held its spring meeting at St. Louis in April. From a technical point of view the meeting was one of the most helpful and practical ever held by the society. Well-known chemists, who had been active in war work, reported the first fruits of their researches, made since their return to the university and the commercial laboratories. These constitute important contributions to industry and also to the general welfare of the American people.

Several sections of the society dealt with the reduction of the high cost of living in its various phases. The search for vegetable substitutes for meat was shown in papers describing the proteins found in pecans and in Georgia velvet beans. The growing importance of the American beet sugar industry was revealed in a paper on its chemical control. The nature of that invisible and illusive power represented by the vitamins, which are so essential to the quality of food and are destroyed in stale and over-cooked viands, was discussed in papers indicating that the day is at hand when they may be isolated and administered.

Suggestions for the hardening of vegetable oils with the aid of catalyzers, substances which alter the nature of liquid fats through chemical reaction, point the way to the further development of butter substitutes.

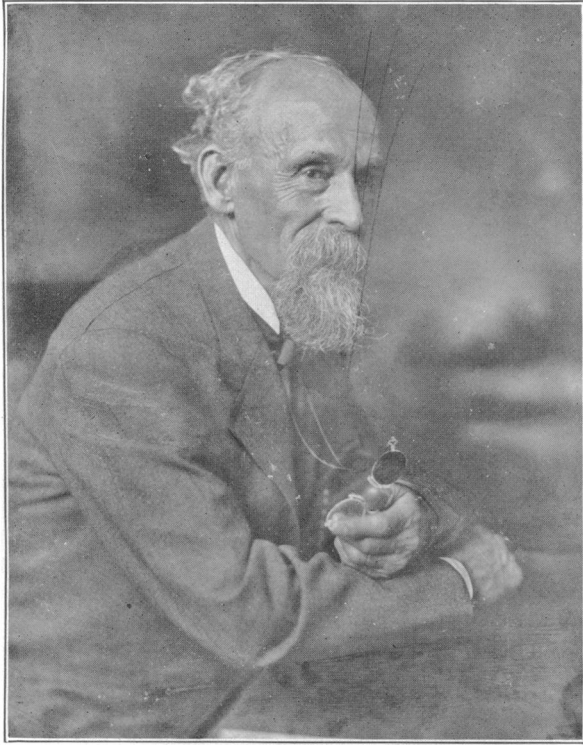
The soft drink industry, which has increased greatly in this country, is making an extensive use of lactic acid, usually derived from sour milk and also obtainable from other sources. The acid is formed by those benevolent bacteria present in the Bulgarian sour milk drinks made famous by Metchnikoff as a means of prolonging life. The use of edible lactic acid and in the potatoes prohibition has popularized, such as ginger ales and kickless beers, would thus tend to prolong the span of life.

Many persons have come to an untimely death through the drinking of wood alcohol served by bootleggers and unscrupulous dealers, and to shield the public from excess it was proposed before the Pharmaceutical Section that the dangerous liquid be deprived of the name "alcohol" entirely and, following a practise already begun, be known merely as "methanol."

The slogan, "Use American Potash" was sounded by a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture, which is endeavoring to bring this fertilizing element within the reach of every farmer. Experts reported that the American industry need have nothing to fear from the German potash companies which once practically monopolized the trade. The element is now being obtained in considerable quantities as a by-product of the making of cement. The announcement was also made that so many were the by-products obtained in the making of potash from kelp, a giant seaweed plentiful along the Pacific coast, that the kelp-potash industry, with which the government has been experimenting, can now be developed on a profitable basis.

Several papers were read on the feeding of live stock in which suggestions were offered for making the alfalfa, various grasses, silage, and also peanuts more available for animal food.

The extensive experiments made by the Chemical Warfare Service in the preparation of a charcoal rendered porous or activated for use as an absorbent for noxious vapors in the army gas masks, have borne fruit in the development of new industrial uses for this treated material. What with the adapting of the war gas mask for the service of manufacturing and mining, the Chemical Warfare Service, as described in a public lecture given by its head, Lieutenant-Colonel Amos



JOHN ALFRED BRASHEAR

Distinguished as a maker of astronomical and physical instruments and an astronomer, a leader in the scientific, educational and civic life of Pittsburgh, who died on April 9, in his eightieth year.

A. Fries, has made many important contributions to the arts of peace.

The newly constituted Leather Section of the society developed improved processes in the tanning of hides for shoes and for industrial purposes which are likely to greatly increase the efficiency and speed of tanning processes and possibly contribute to a decrease in the prices of footgear. The section devoted to rubber considered a new method of testing that elastic substance with the microscope which is considered revolutionary.

American dyes are able to hold their own not only for the tinting of fabrics but also for scientific and medical purposes, as demonstrated by important papers read before the dye division. A new note appeared

in the proposal to derive from corn cobs furfural, which may be used as a base from which to draw dyes, just as certain coal tar products are employed. Thus, furfural green, a favorite tint, may eventually be derived from the refuse of native maize.

#### MEAT AND MILK IN THE FOOD SUPPLY

THE committee on food and nutrition of the National Research Council has issued a report on meat and milk in the food supply of the nation, which is summarized in a press bulletin of the council.

Dr. Armsby, probably the leading American expert on animal nutrition, has estimated that of the energy of grain used in feeding the